

aquatic organisms swim in, estrogens are particularly concerning. In a review of the literature, fish were found to be particularly susceptible to these endocrine disrupting chemicals. Intersexed fish are found around the nation and even at a wastewater treatment plant in the Nation's Capital. In this District of Columbia study, female eggs were found in over 80 percent of the small mouth bass male reproductive organs.

Unused and expired pharmaceuticals are a threat to our homes, families, communities, and the environment. Sporadic take back events are not sufficient. DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart recently stated that the 309 tons of pills collected at two recent community-funded take-back events "represents a clear need for a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs."

Public safety organizations and medical organizations have called for expanded drug takeback programs. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) senior vice president and chief medical officer, Allan Korn, M.D., stated that "Unused prescription medicines that remain in homes can be misused or abused if they get in the wrong hands of children, family or friends," and commended, "providing a safe and easy way for Americans to drop off their unnecessary prescription drugs."

The bill I introduce today would help solve these serious environmental, public health, and public safety concerns by providing Americans with a convenient way to safely dispose of their pharmaceuticals. Producer responsibility and stewardship is the backbone of this legislation. Simply put, producers must take responsibility for their product beyond the initial manufacture and sale. By establishing a national drug take back program financed by producers, this legislation will help reduce the supply of unused medications across the country and prevent the entry of pharmaceuticals into the water supply.

In addition, this legislation establishes a commission of stakeholders to investigate risks, causes, and potential solutions of pharmaceutical contaminants in the environment and waterways. Using this information, the Commission will develop a strategy that will prevent pharmaceutical contaminants from polluting our waterways and environments from cradle-to-grave.

Without a safe means of disposing our pharmaceuticals, we risk our public health, our public safety, and our environment. We cannot wait any longer for action.

REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this tenth anniversary of the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, I simply want to pay tribute to the American people, and to our country, and what it stands for: our enduring commitment to the freedoms we cherish, to liberty and democracy, and to our system of government and our way of life.

The attacks on 9/11 against the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here

in Washington, and over the skies of Pennsylvania, took nearly 3,000 lives. It was the worst attack against the homeland since Pearl Harbor, and a higher death toll was inflicted on 9/11 than even on that date in 1941 "that will live in infamy," as Franklin Roosevelt memorialized for the nation.

On this 9/11, our sole responsibilities are the simple, sacred acts of remembrance and rededication: remembrance of those whose lives were taken, and rededication to our country and its future.

Those who perished will never be forgotten; their names are called out every year. And if anything, American patriotism is stronger than ever.

The 9/11 attacks were directed at our freedoms, our way of life, and modern civilization itself. It was an assault against American leadership in the world, against the ideals that have guided us since the founding of the Republic, and against the rule of law and any sense of morality.

But the fact is that those responsible for 9/11 could never—and will never—defeat the United States of America. No act of terrorism can overcome the spirit of the American people and our pursuit of our destiny.

Our resolve from that terrible day was clear: to pursue and defeat those who perpetrated this evil, and to make sure they can never again threaten the United States of America and those who live here.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we must note that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have now lasted longer than the Civil War and World War II combined. We have suffered substantial casualties—over 6,300 dead and 35,000 injured in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. The financial cost of the two wars is over \$1.2 trillion—nearly equal to this year's Federal budget deficit. President Bush did not ask the American people for a tax increase to finance these wars, so we have not only a legacy of great human casualties, but also one of immense financial debt.

The American involvement in the war in Iraq is drawing to a close, and I support President Obama's stated intention to remove all American combat forces by year's end.

But I also believe it past time to end our involvement in Afghanistan. We should bring our troops home now. There is nothing more for our forces to achieve there. There are other fronts in the war on terror, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Sudan, and we need to continue our efforts to combat violent extremists in those countries. But there is no overriding purpose served by continuing military involvement in Afghanistan. Let us leave Afghanistan to its people, and reserve the right to strike at any foe arising from Afghanistan that poses a threat to our country and its people.

As a nation we grieve for those whose lives were so brutally taken on 9/11. We honor their memory, and we support their families. And I hope that all our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be brought home to us very soon.

HONORING SAMUEL MORRISON EVANS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Morrison Evans. Samuel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 87, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Samuel has earned 65 merit badges and spent countless hours volunteering at the Cameron Food Pantry and with the American Legion. Samuel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Samuel planned and constructed landscaping around Parkview Elementary in Cameron, Missouri. Samuel also designed and painted murals inside the school gymnasium to make the room more appealing to the student population.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Morrison Evans for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. HELEN W. SOGGS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Helen W. Soggs, a longtime, active member of the Greater Cleveland community.

Helen was born on March 4, 1921, as a first generation American, in Cleveland, Ohio. At the age of four, her family moved to Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood. She attended Oak Park School, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School and James Ford Rhodes High School. Following her high school graduation, in 1939, Helen enrolled in typing and shorthand classes at the Dyke School of Commerce.

On May 4, 1941, Helen married Kenneth Soggs. Because of Kenneth's job as a construction equipment operator, the young couple frequently relocated throughout the onset of World War II before returning to Old Brooklyn. During the War, in 1942, Helen became the first woman to be hired by Republic Steel; she worked as a "scale girl" for three years.

Following the War, Helen and Kenneth started their family and had two sons. The Soggs family would eventually settle in Seven Hills, Ohio. Kenneth and Helen became involved in family-owned furniture stores, including Parma Home Appliance and Pleasant Valley Furniture. Helen would later work for Higbee's on their furniture customer service team. She retired in 1986.